

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application, as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

Claims 5, 6 and 11 are under an objection because they all depend from claim 1 and recite the limitation "the inner section", which lacks antecedent basis. As now presented, claim 5 depends from claim 4, which recites "an end section" and adds to this a recitation of "an inner section" so that claim 5 has antecedent basis for "said one end section and inner section". Claim 6 has been amended to add that the transverse conveyor has inner and end sections so as to provide antecedent basis for "said end section and inner section". Claim 11 now depends from claim 2 and so as to provide antecedent basis for said inner section. Accordingly, the reasons for the objection of these claims is now thought removed and it is requested that the objection be withdrawn.

The numeral 34 has been deleted from claim 9, as requested by the Examiner.

Claim 1-10 are under a rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grahl et al., 6,601,375 in view of Engel et al. 5,848,523 and Uros et al., 6,370,851. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is in error as these references cannot be combined in any obvious way to arrive at the claimed structure.

Specifically, among other structure, claim 1 requires a baling chamber having an inlet and a crop delivery arrangement including a crop take-up device, a crop processing arrangement located for receiving crop from the crop take-up device and for delivering the crop in a rearward direction, a transverse conveyor located for receiving the crop from the crop processing arrangement and for delivering crop into said inlet, and each of the crop take-up device, crop processing arrangement and transverse conveyor all having a **width considerably wider than said inlet**.

Grahl et al. disclose a baler including a pick-up device 18 which delivers crop directly to a transverse conveyor 34 which delivers crop to a crop inlet 20 defined at the nip of lower and upper infeed rollers 22 and 24 which move the crop into the baling chamber 64. No crop processing arrangement is located for receiving the crop from the crop pick-up device 18. Only the pick-up device 18 and the transverse conveyor 34 are wider than the inlet 20.

Engel et al. discloses a crop pick-up device 32 that delivers crop to a

transverse conveyor 34 including outer end sections 56 configured as screw conveyors operating as overshot conveyors, and including an inner section 54 in the form of a rotor including a multitude of dogs or flat blades 60 that act to deliver crop rearwardly through a baling chamber inlet 28 defined between spaced apart bale-forming rolls 26 at a lower front location of the baling chamber 16. Each of the pick-up device 32 and transverse conveyor 34 are wider than the inlet 28. Engel et al. mentions that the baler may be equipped with a cutter arrangement but does not indicate any particulars as to how such an arrangement would be provided. The rotor portion of the transverse conveyor 34 has a width **equal to that of the baling chamber inlet 28**.

Uros et al. disclose a large round baler including a pick-up 30 which delivers crop to a cutting device 12 located immediately in front of an inlet 24 to the baling chamber 20. The cutting device 12 includes a rotor equipped with a plurality of dogs or flat blades which cooperate with plurality of retractable knives 36 so as to cut the crop before it is delivered to the baling chamber 20. The pick-up and cutter arrangement are **equal in width to the inlet to the baling chamber 20**.

Thus, because in each of Grahl et al. and Engel et al. the flow of crop is narrowed immediately the rear of the pick-up and there is no teaching of using a crop processing arrangement that is wider than the baling chamber, and because Eros et al. does not disclose a baler having a pick-up or cutting device that is wider than the baling chamber inlet, it is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching for providing a crop processing arrangement between the pickup and the transverse conveyor, which is wider than the inlet to the baling chamber.

Claims 2-11 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are likewise thought allowable.

Claim 3 is thought allowable for the additional reason that it requires there to be an interface between the crop processing arrangement and the transverse conveyor at which the crop processing arrangement can be separated from the transverse conveyor, and no such interface is taught by the prior art. Contrary to the Examiner's contention, Uros et al. does not teach any interface between a crop processing arrangement and a transverse conveyor, and in fact does not even disclose a transverse conveyor.

Claim 11 is thought allowable for the additional reason that it requires the inner section of the transverse conveyor to be located within a circumferential region

of said baling chamber and to rotate in a direction opposite to that of a bale being formed in the baling chamber so as to aid in the rotation of the forming bale, and the inner section of the transverse conveyor of each of Grahl et al. and Engel et al. is located exteriorly of the baling chamber.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-11 are under a rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Engel et al. in view of Uros et al. (it is assumed that, in the last line of third complete paragraph of page 4, the Examiner intended --Engel et al. instead of "Grahl et al."). It is submitted that this rejection is in error for essentially the same reason stated above for the allowance of claim 1 over the rejection which included Grahl et al. as a base reference.

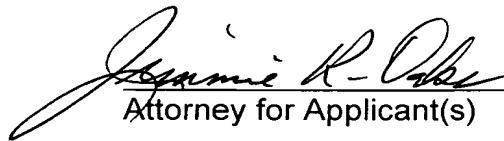
Specifically, claim 1 is thought to be allowable over Engel et al. in view of Uros et al. because neither Engel et al. nor Uros et al. teach using a processing arrangement which is **wider** than the inlet to the baling chamber, as claimed. While Engel et al. does mention that a cutting device could be included, Engel et al. also disclose a rotor, like those normally used together with knives to form a cutting device. But the rotor in Engel et al. forms the inner section of the transverse conveyor and is **not wider** than the inlet to the baling chamber. Also, the cutting device of Uros et al. is **not wider** than the inlet to the baling chamber. Therefore, providing a cutting device in Engel et al. would just require the addition of cutting knives to be used together with the rotor already present (see combined transverse conveyor and cutting device in EP 0 815 720 A, for example) and would not result in a crop processing device wider than the baling chamber, as claimed.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 9-11 depend from claim 1 and are likewise thought allowable over Engel et al. in view of Uros et al.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully,



Jimmie R. Oaks
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Jimmie R. Oaks
Reg. No. 24,987
Patent Department
Deere & Company
One John Deere Place
Moline, IL 61265
Telephone No. (309) 765-4392

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
on: 10 August 2004 Date



Jimmie R. Oaks
Deere & Company
Signature Date
10 August 2004